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21 December 1964



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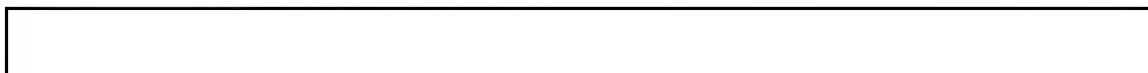


CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

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State Dept. review completed



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South Vietnam: Yesterday's dissolution of the High National Council by armed forces commanders has provoked no immediate reaction in Saigon, but it seems likely to precipitate further instability.

The commanders acted when their order for the retirement of several ranking officers was held up by opposition in the council. Although the military action in effect removes the government's legal civilian foundation, the commanders, in voicing continued support of Chief of State Suu and Premier Huong, evidently hope to preserve civilian control of routine administrative matters. They say that they intend to make Suu responsible for the council's mission of convening a national assembly.

[Premier Huong, who claims that armed forces leaders confronted him with a fait accompli, now says he intends to tender his resignation unless Armed Forces Chief General Khanh gives assurances that the military will not rule as a "state within the state."]7

General Khanh's attitude and authority, however, remain unclear. Although a party to the military action, he took no part in a subsequent meeting between "young Turk" generals and the US Embassy, or in the armed forces' press conference.

In the wake of the military action, Buddhist leaders canceled plans for a public hunger strike yesterday in

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Saigon. Tri Quang says the campaign against the government will continue, but that he contemplates no new move until the Buddhists can determine the full impact of the military's action.

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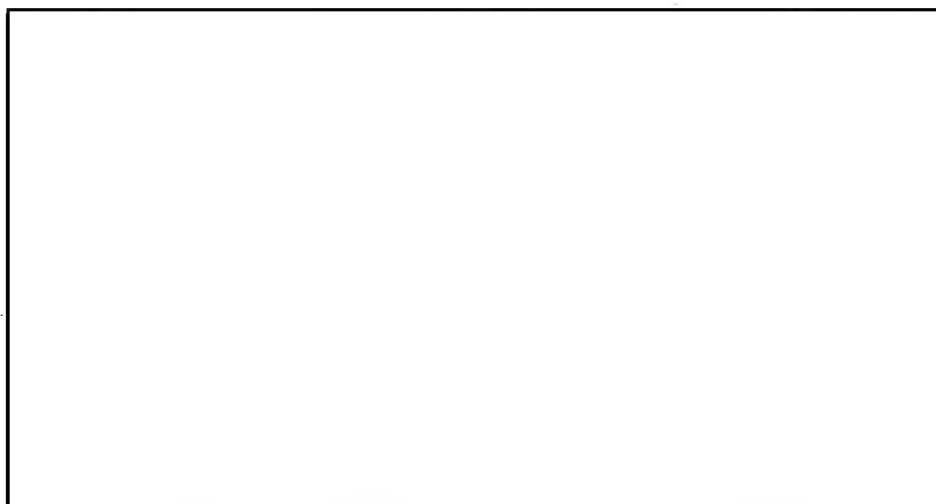
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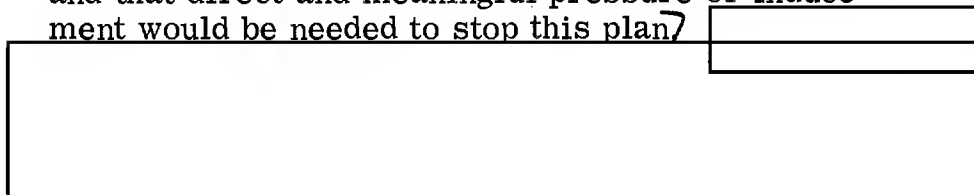
NOTES



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Netherlands: [Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM) is thinking of instituting regular passenger flights between Havana and other Caribbean points. The service would be offered by KLM's newly formed subsidiary, Antilles Airlines, using some of the idle Convairs in the area. The US Embassy in The Hague believes that the Dutch Government shares KLM's impatience with US opposition to air service to Cuba and that direct and meaningful pressure or inducement would be needed to stop this plan]

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